

Hamilton Field,
Auto Maintenance Shop Type B
(Facility No. 972)
West of C Street, north of Main Entrance Road
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AY

HABS
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21-NOVA,
IAY

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Auto Maintenance Shop Type B (Facility No. 972)

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HABS No. CA-2398-AY

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Auto Maintenance Shop Type B
Facility No. 972 (west of C Street, north of Main Entrance Road)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA., Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980).
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Building 972 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. The auto maintenance shop was constructed in the early years of World War II as part of the base build-up at that time.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

This is a long (225 feet by 64 feet), narrow frame building with slightly pitched composition gable roof. There are large entry bays in the end walls, and also along the sides. Fenestration consists of a series of 16-light industrial sash windows along both sides of the building. The middle eight lights are awning windows. The floor and foundation are concrete.

The interior is a large room with offices on the east end and along the south side. Some offices are carpeted and are divided by temporary wood partition walls. Office ceilings are suspended acoustical tile; the main warehouse is open to the roof trusses.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-239B-F.

Built in 1942, this auto maintenance shop was the main repair facility in this area of base during the war. It is still used by the U. S. Navy and is included in base closure actions.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 104, exposures 5-8; and roll 105, exposures 1-7, 10-12.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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